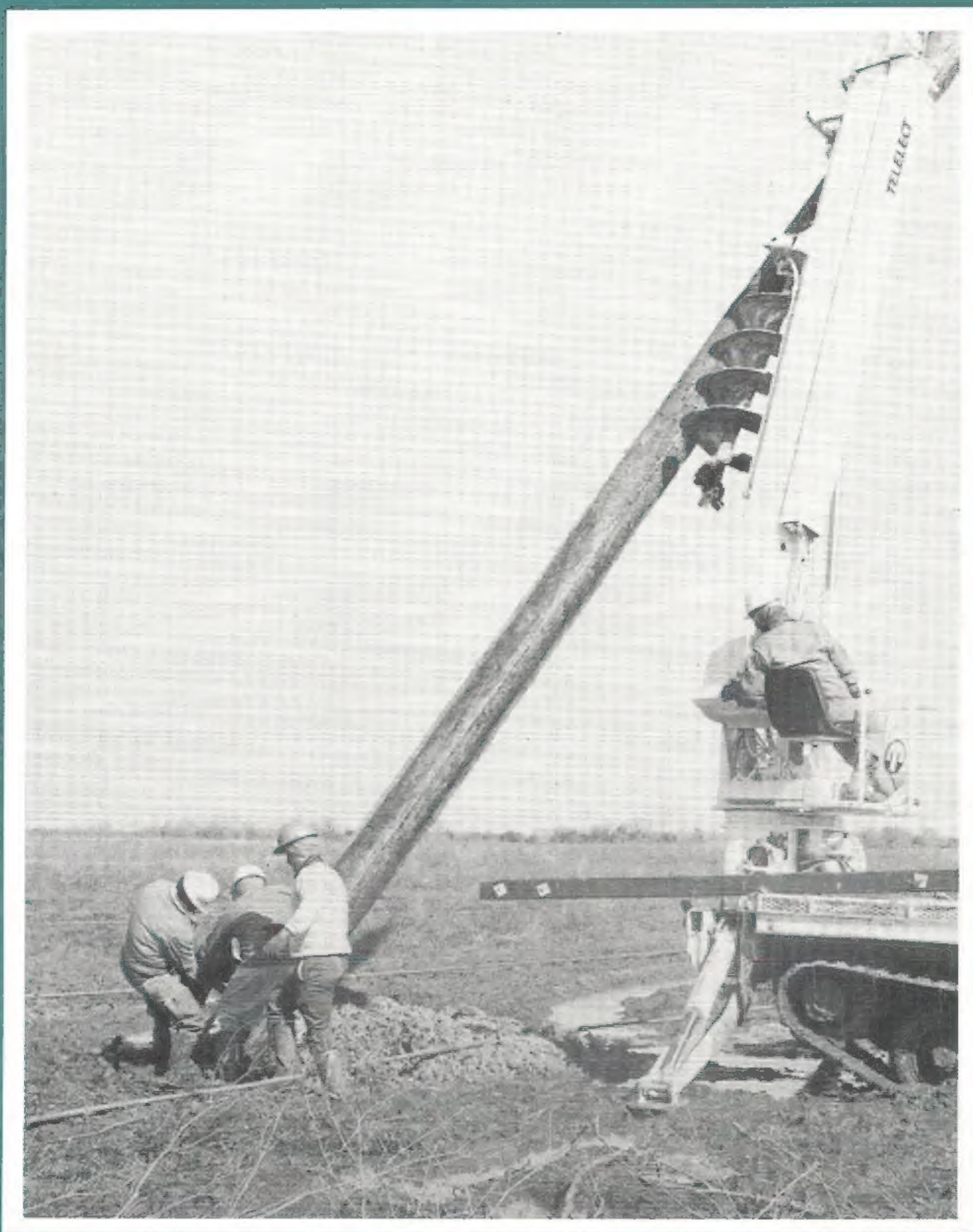


# PLAIN TALKS

February  
1983



Onstage  
in Conroe,  
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# MAIL BOX

## THE COVER

A cold, biting wind battered a Beaumont line crew working in a muddy field on the outskirts of the city.

But it was all in a day's work as the men continued repairs following the Jan. 31 storm in southeast Texas.

The line crew led by John Jorden, line foreman, positions a new utility pole with the assistance of T&D truckdriver Billy Wilcox, who operates the boom atop the Go-Track swamp vehicle.

Although service was restored to all customers by Feb. 1, repair work continued for several days. In the field, for example, flood waters prevented crews from getting to the site during the storm.

The cover photograph was shot by Susan Gilley of Employee Communications. A related story and pictures are on pages 10-11.

Ted Meinscher  
Gulf States Utilities  
Lake Charles, La.

Dear Mr. Meinscher:

As superintendent of schools in Jefferson Davis Parish, I would like to express my appreciation to you and your company for the excellent service and cooperation we get from the Jennings branch of Gulf States.

We experienced an overload from the main entry to Central Elementary School Thursday (Aug. 26). I called Mr. Al Gann and he had a crew of men at 7 a.m. Friday. We did not have to dismiss some 450 first and second graders. Your men knew what to do and they really got after it.

With best wishes, I remain,  
Sincerely yours,  
Louis F. Gaudet  
Superintendent

Louis Stough  
Gulf States Utilities  
Sabine Station  
Bridge City, Texas  
Dear Mr. Stough:

On behalf of the membership of the Desk and Derrick Club of Beaumont, I would like to express our appreciation to you and to Mr. H. A. Taylor for the tour of your power station on Aug. 24. Thank you for sharing your time and your knowledge with us. I apologize for the lateness of my letter, but I have been out of town.

The best way I can think of to describe the tour is "impressive." Though many of us either do work or have worked in refineries and oil-related fields, the production of electricity is new to us.

You gave us a good overall picture with your drawing on the board; then it was interesting to see the massive turbines, generators, etc. used in producing the electricity. The control rooms were interesting, too, and each of us came away with a greater appreciation for something we tend to take for granted — that the power is going to be there when we need it.

Again, our thanks to you and Mr. Taylor. We appreciate everything — from your taking your time to conduct the tour, to your answering all our questions, down to the cold drinks you served us at the end of the tour. It was really a learning experience for us.

Sincerely yours,  
Mildred Clark  
Corresponding Secretary

## PLAIN TALKS

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-81) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.



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# NEWS BRIEFS



*Russell Simmons, mechanical engineer, is among more than 400 downtown employees who have donated blood in recent months.*

## Beaumont GSUers donate blood

A blood drive on Jan. 27-28 for downtown Beaumont employees netted 226 pints of blood, reported Lillie Babino, blood drive chairman.

The drive — the second such collection held within an eight-month period beginning in May 1982 — was held in conjunction with GSU's participation in the Blood Center of Southeast Texas' Blood Plan Forty. Under the plan, the 1,200 downtown employees and their immediate families receive full blood coverage, provided at least 40 percent of the covered employees donate blood.

Employees at the Liberty-Pearl Complex and Edison Plaza are expected to reach their goal of 480 donors before the plan year ends May 24. According to Mrs. Babino, 242 of those employees had donated during an earlier drive.

Mrs. Babino noted that many employees are repeat donors, including Joe Russian of Edison

Plaza. The security and systems representative has donated a total of two gallons of blood in recent years. Twenty-four other employees have been cited for donating a total of one gallon each, she added.

## Trade journal publishes Davey

The December issue of *Power Engineering* contained an article written by Gulf States engineer R. Thomas Davey. Davey, lead electrical engineer in Power Plant Engineering and Design, discussed the use of programmable data loggers to monitor the temperature of water-cooled power generators. He participated in the design of the programmable loggers for GSU's power plants. The data logger system detects abnormal cooling temperatures that could lead to possible failure of the generators.

Davey, an employee at GSU since September 1978, received his bachelor of science in electrical engineering from North Carolina State University and a masters degree in business administration from Old Dominion University.

*Power Engineering* is a trade publication for the power generation industry that emphasizes engineering aspects of the business.

## Recognition given for safety

Three Mid-County District employees, all of whom are servicemen-1st class, were recognized recently for having worked a combined total of 105 years without experiencing a single lost-time injury, reports *Plain Talks* correspondent Barbara Broussard.

Cited were Erwin Venghaus, who had worked safely for 34 years; Joe Turner, a safe worker for 35 years; and Odell James, 36 years. Hard hat decals proclaiming their achievement were presented by Ed Hutchins, Mid-County superintendent.



*Odell James*



*Joe Turner*



*Erwin Venghaus*



# Conroe's Trouper

by Susan Gilley

James E. "Jim" Walker looks innocent enough — but he can convincingly change from a sheriff to a villain to a singing cowboy, with just a few props.

The bearded Gulf Stater, an engineering helper with the survey crew in Conroe, has played those three parts and others during his seven years with the Conroe Little Theater. He presently chairs the thespian group's board of directors.

## **"Oklahoma" hooked him**

Before joining Gulf States two years ago, Walker owned an ice business. He became involved with the Little Theater in an indirect way by singing with the Conroe Chorale, which helped out with a Little Theater production of "Oklahoma."

"I square-danced and sang, but I only had half a line in that production," recalls Walker. Years later, he can still recite those words from the Rodgers and Hammerstein play, saying, "...with a dimple on your chin."

Walker was so enamored with acting that he immediately auditioned for the Little Theater production of "Mr. Roberts."

"I was hooked after 'Oklahoma'. When you do that final number, then go down on your knees and 1,300 people stand, well . . .," Walker drawls, without finishing the thought.

## **Family joins the act**

The novice actor won the role of "Doc" in the second play and had to learn 75 lines.

Walker, 42, is the custodial single parent of four children, Melissa, 11, Jason, 12, Leighza, 14, and David, 18. All are active in Little Theater. "Melissa does makeup and Jason has a part in 'Gypsy' later this year as a newsboy and trombone player.



*Walker operates theater's \$65,000 light and sound system.*

David has performed in a couple of productions and Leighza appeared in a performance of 'The Mouse That Roared'," boasts their father.

## **Home for pigeons and snakes**

The Crighton Theater was built in the mid-1930s as a vaudeville house, says Walker. The building served as a movie house for nearly 30 years before closing in 1965. For about 10 years, the 530-seat facility was abandoned to "pigeons," jokes Walker. The orchestra pit was actually filled with water and served as a home for snakes by the time the Montgomery County Foundation for the Performing Arts began renovations. Community donations and revenue from productions paid the entire \$535,000 bill for remodeling. The Crighton is now assessed at \$2 million.



*The Crighton's treasures include a crystal chandelier and antiques.*



# Outlook: 1983 and Beyond

## Safety stressed at management conference



*Joe Bondurant, executive vice president-operations; Paul Murrill, chairman of the board and chief executive officer; and Lonnie Cobb, general superintendent-Texas generation.*

Employee safety will continue to be among the company's highest priorities, according to Gulf States President Norman Lee in his comments to the management conference held in January at the Beaumont Civic Center. The two-day meeting called by GSU Chairman Paul Murrill updates top management on how GSU fared during the past year and provides information for managers to use in their work.

Lee also announced that the winners of the 1982 President's Safety Awards were the Port Arthur Division and Nelson Station. This is the highest safety honor given by GSU.

Joe Donnelly, executive vice president of finance, cautioned that while construction expenditures will be lower in 1983 than in 1982 and GSU stock had posted 1982 earnings per share of \$1.95, as a whole, the utility business was "still not out of the woods."

The group was commended by the company's president for their careful use of construction funds and other expenditures in 1982 while maintaining good service to customers.

Others spoke to the group on progress at the River Bend plant,

projected fuel and power supplies and customer relations. GSU officers who addressed the conference included Paul Murrill, Ed Loggins, Joe Bondurant, Linn Draper, Bill Cahill and Aubrey Sprawls.

Guest speakers included Carl H. Seligson, managing director of Merrill Lynch Weld Capital Group; Henry F. Keplinger, president and chairman of the board of Keplinger Companies; and Daryl Owen, administrative assistant to Louisiana Sen. Bennett Johnston.

Also featured were: Llewelyn King, editor of the *Energy Daily*; Dr. Moak Rollins, Public Utilities Commission of Texas; Vita Ostrander, president of the American Association of Retired Persons; and Jack Jackson, American Airlines.

Conference attendees were to return to their own departments to discuss information presented at the conference through a series of "mini-management" conferences to be held in the ensuing months.



*Victor Norvell, superintendent-consumer services, and Mildred Tribble, assistant to vice-president-consumer services.*



# Safety Award Winners

Nelson Station and the Port Arthur Division won first place in the power plant and division categories of the President's Safety Awards competition.

When announcing the winning locations, Norman Lee, GSU's president and chief operating officer, praised the Nelson Station and Port Arthur Division employees for their safe working practices. "The President's Safety Awards represent the highest safety honor given by Gulf States. Winning employees can truly feel proud of their outstanding accomplishment," Lee asserted.

## Employee safety highest priority

He continued, "I consider the safety of our employees of the highest priority and an integral part of each of our jobs. The safety performance of your work group is a good measure of the quality of your operations. A safety program is only successful when our fatalities are cut to zero and our employees can return home safely each day."

Lee will present the plaques to employees at each location during special banquets commemorating their accomplishment. Nelson Station employees and their spouses or dates will be feted at a gathering Feb. 24 in the Westlake Knights of Columbus Hall, reported Rene DeBlanc, plant superintendent. In the Port Arthur Division, employees and their spouses or dates will be treated to a dinner and dance March 4 in the Nederland Knights of Columbus Hall, said Division Vice President Ron McKenzie.



*Mike Durham, manager-occupational health and safety; Port Arthur Division Vice President Ron McKenzie; and President Norman Lee.*

President's Safety Awards are based on a combination of on-the-job disabling injury rates and motor vehicle accident rates. Another factor considered is the severity of each injury.

Employees at Nelson Station worked throughout 1982 without experiencing a single disabling accident. Only 12 Nelson accidents required medical atten-

tion. Further, Nelson employees drove 89,455 miles, logging one chargeable vehicle accident. A chargeable accident is one that an employee could have avoided.

In the Port Arthur Division, employees worked 352,935 manhours with one lost-time injury. The division employees also drove 680,772 miles with nine chargeable accidents.



*Mike Durham, manager-occupational health and safety; Rene DeBlanc, superintendent-Nelson Station; and President Lee.*





A.

## Concrete used in construction

by T. J. Reyes

Although the idea of concrete buildings is still fairly new in the United States, Europeans have been working since the early 1960s to develop a concrete blend suitable for use in housing. Gulf States is taking that idea one step farther and using concrete housing for the expensive, and sometimes remotely located, equipment used to operate the microwave communications network connecting every company location with each of the others.

With the help of an innovative Shreveport, La., construction company named Plycrete Corporation, Gulf States is erecting pre-fabricated microwave houses from concrete. According to Roland P. Kulish, senior engineering assistant in Beaumont's Engineering Design, the pre-fab buildings are made from panels of fiberglass-reinforced concrete.

The concrete structures are assembled at the factory with a variety of sizes available and then transported by truck to the customer's property. Each wall is made of two panels of the fiberglass-mixture with styrofoam sandwiched in between the panels. According to Plycrete, such custom features as electric systems, smooth or pebble exterior finish, and air conditioning are available.

Different weights of concrete can be used. The heavy-duty

weight of 27 pounds per square foot of surface area can withstand gunfire from a rifle.

One of the Gulf States microwave houses that needed replacing was located in the marshy Mississippi River flood plain area at Louisiana Station.

A special foundation, similar to those used for offshore drilling rigs, was developed to hold this building on a 10-inch thick platform 30 feet above the ground.

Most of the 25 houses ordered by Gulf States will be completed and on-site by the end of February. Although the concrete buildings are currently being used only by Gulf States microwave communications people, the idea is being evaluated for other uses within the company.

Photos by Roland Kulish

A. This 10-inch-thick platform helps support a concrete microwave house 30 feet above the Mississippi flood plains at Louisiana Station.

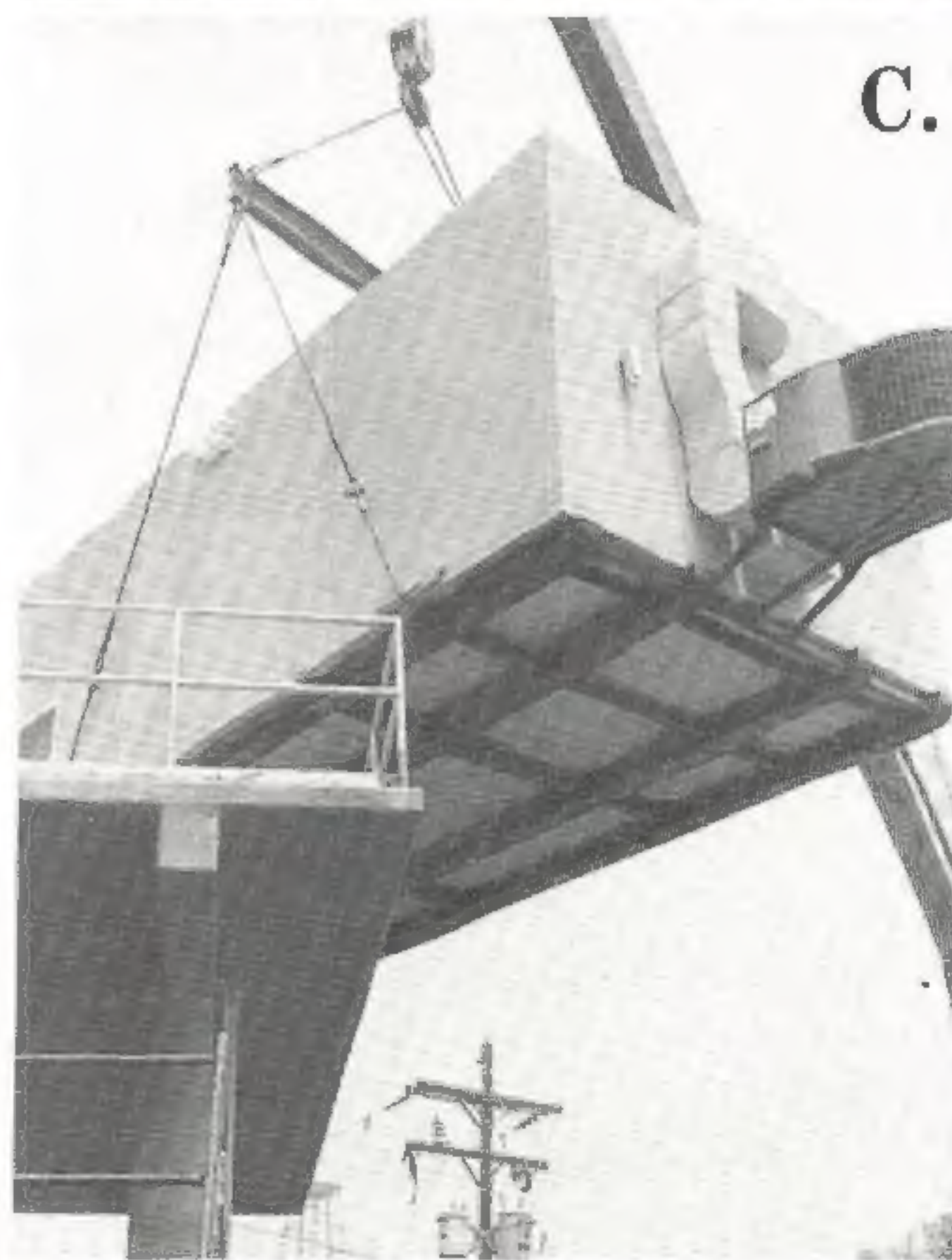
B. Placing the 20-ton concrete building atop the pier foundation is a slow job.

C. The concrete microwave house must be lifted high enough to clear the guard railing of the platform.

D. Workers check proper placement of the microwave house.



B.



C.



D.



# Winchester Woman

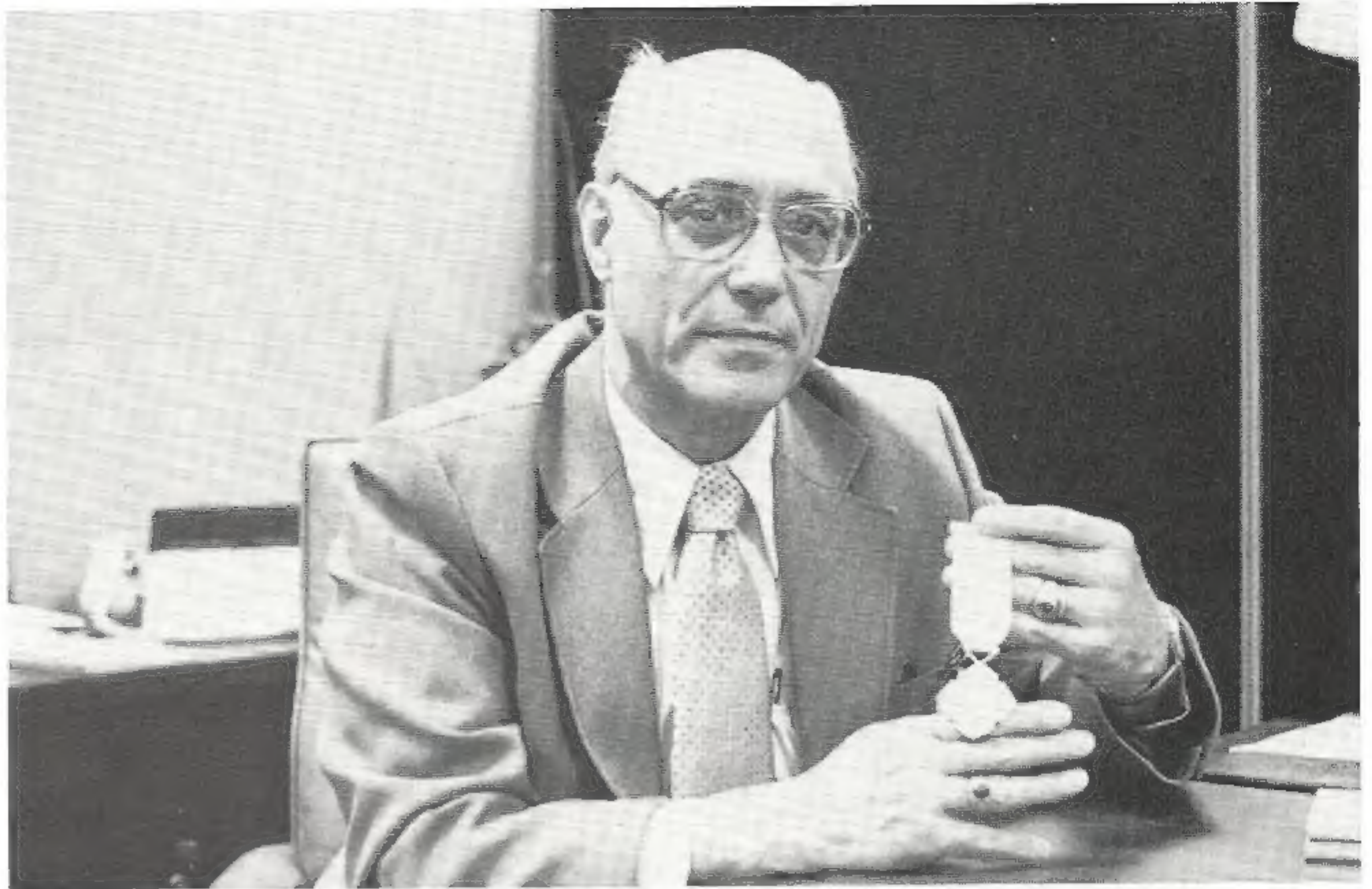
Clara Wellmann, supervisor-customer accounts in Conroe, says she first came down with the "fever" about 11 years ago, and has never fully recovered.

A confirmed sportswoman, Mrs. Wellmann is referring to the phenomenon she calls "buck fever." The Navasota resident, an avid deer hunter, explains, "I do get the buck fever when I see one with a big rack. I hear my heart beating in my ears and my gun barrel won't stay still."

She first experienced the sensation about four years after her husband, James, took her on her first deer hunting expedition.

Mrs. Wellmann, who joined the company in 1960 in Navasota (Western Division was once headquartered there), owns a Winchester 270.

Over the years, Mrs. Wellmann has established a pretty good record as a hunter. Until the past two years, she brought home a buck and a doe each year. Her husband's health, however, curtailed the couple's hunting in 1981 and 1982, although she managed to bag a doe in 1981. A petite 4 feet, 11¾ inches, Mrs. Wellmann has to wait with the game until someone can help her field dress it.



*Frank LeMire displays his Papal Medal.*

## Papal Medals Awarded

From the start of their married life, the Catholic faith has been very important to Wilma and Frank LeMire.

That fact was confirmed Jan. 9 when the couple accepted papal medals, the highest honor given to Catholic lay workers by Pope John Paul II. The official name of the award is "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice," which translates, "for the church and the pope." Bishop Bernard J. Ganter presented the medals during a Sunday Mass in St. Anthony's Cathedral.

A longtime Gulf States employee, Frank reveals that the awards were based on the LeMires' work with a televised Sunday Mass. Frank originally became involved with the program eight years ago through his involvement with the Serra Club, a Catholic layman's organization which sponsors the show. He and Wilma share responsibility for the project, making all physical arrangements, scheduling priests as celebrants, participating in televising the Mass and arranging the financing.

"Of course, Mass is the central part of our faith, and this way the shut-ins can see a Mass. We have received some beautiful letters over the years from people who enjoy the Mass. It's not the substitute for going to Mass, but it's second-best," Frank points out. The service airs for 30 minutes on the second and fourth Sunday mornings on Port Arthur's Channel 4 television station.

Frank, now supervisor of system credit and collections, recalls that he met Wilma when both were college students in Denton, Texas, and had become involved with the activities of the Newman Center, the Catholic student fellowship. Frank was attending North Texas State University and Wilma was enrolled at Texas Woman's University.

After marrying, Frank brought his bride, a native of El Campo, closer to his hometown of Port Arthur so he could accept a job with Gulf States in Beaumont in 1952.





*Dennis Delk (background), apprentice, and Albert Clay, lineman-2nd class, roll a utility pole into position for raising.*

## Weathering the Storm

by Susan Gilley

The National Weather Service had predicted rain for southeast Texas on Monday, Jan. 31, but by 1:30 p.m. that day the forecast seemed a bit understated.

Before lunch, Bobby Albrecht, lineman-2nd class in Silsbee, had gotten wet when rain dampened a routine Line Department job. After lunch, however, gusting winds, lightning and heavy rain caused some utility poles to topple and fuses to blow, meaning many customers' homes in the Silsbee-Lumberton area of Beaumont's Northern District were without lights.

Albrecht and Line Department employees from throughout southeast Texas donned their rain gear and went to work restoring service. The four-year Silsbee employee recognizes that he must sometimes brave the elements on his job, but he insists that the task is not a thankless one. Since his wife, Gena, is a former Gulf Stater, she understands the urgency to restoring service as safely and quickly as possible. While he appreciates his wife's support, the bearded, soft-spoken Albrecht reveals that he also senses the appreciation of friends and neighbors. "They'll mention that



*A pole goes up as repair work continues in the*

they saw me working on the side of the road in the cold and rain. I think they really appreciate it," suggests Albrecht.

And that's really the bottom line for company operations, as far as Van Kitchens, a 24-year company veteran, is concerned.

Kitchens, service foreman in Orange, explains, "Being a customer myself, I understand that when you pay for a service, you expect it to be good. That's the main thing. The word 'dependability' used to be on our emblem, and I think that idea is pretty well understood by our customers over here in the Orange area," he explains.

"We sometimes get thank-you cards from customers," he continues, "and that makes you feel good, but really it's all a part of what we're supposed to do."

Most of the outages in the Orange and Bridge City area were caused by lightning hitting the lines and putting out feeders, tree damage on the lines and even by a weather-related automobile accident in which a truck struck a pole. Employees





*aftermath of the Jan. 31 storm.*

who worked the storm "did an outstanding job over here. They were real quick to react and the two dispatchers were very good in handling the work," Kitchens recalls.

Damage in the Beaumont area was more extensive because a tornado touched down in the city's west end, reports Perry "Sandy" Sanderson, service supervisor at the Beaumont Service Center.

"At one time or another, we had 32,373 customers out. They were out anywhere from 30 seconds to 20 hours, and those without power the longest were in flooded areas where we just couldn't get trucks in," Sanderson notes. Most power was restored by 4 a.m.

"By doing some switching on transmission lines, we got all our customers back on line, but we were still doing repair work later in the week," he adds. Since the sun was shining then, some linemen faced another adversary as a snake slithered into their work area.

In nearby Silsbee, Homer Shawver, assistant line super-

visor, reports that about 400 to 500 customers were out in isolated areas, so a crew from Woodville helped Silsbee crews respond to the crisis. As in Beaumont, some city streets were closed to traffic because of flooding.

In Port Arthur, Raymond Kemp, meter and service supervisor, says he has worked through ice storms, hurricanes and all kinds of adverse weather conditions during his 36 years with the company. As usual, he adds, "Everybody did a real good job under the circumstances." Although more than 2,000 Port Neches customers lost power around 2 p.m. when a substation went out of service, most were back on line by 4:39 p.m. that day.

Albrecht, the Silsbee lineman, talks about the right way to work under tough weather conditions. "It's important to keep everything straight in your mind as you're working and not get in a hurry just to get out of the weather."

Such careful, safety-minded attention to the job at hand reflects the basic company policy of putting the customer second only to safety.



*Bobby Albrecht, lineman-2nd class, was among Silsbee employees working during the storm.*



*The winds were still strong when Ralph Harrington, lineman-2nd class, climbed this pole.*



## Clay joins Perry family



Little Clayton Dillard "Clay" Perry joined the Roger and Mona Perry family at 8:44 a.m. Aug. 8, 1982. He weighed in at 9 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 21 inches long, reports his proud father, who is supervisor-financial planning and analysis in the Treasury Dept.

Born in St. Elizabeth Hospital, Beaumont, Clay is the first child for the couple. The family lives in Vidor, where Clay had grown to a strapping 16 pounds by the first of January.

Clay is pictured at 4 months of age.



## Browns announce baby daughter

Jennifer Leigh Brown made her appearance in the Vicky and Jerry Brown family at 7:57 a.m. Monday, Dec. 20, in St. Elizabeth Hospital, Beaumont.

The little girl weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 20¼ inches.

Mrs. Brown, a personnel clerk in Beaumont, has been with GSU for 10 years. She and her husband make their home in Nederland.

Little Jennifer has one sister, Tracy, 12, who lives in Groves.

## Meche cited for UGF work



Lanard J. Meche, relayman-1st class in Lafayette, was given a plaque recently in appreciation of two consecutive years of outstanding service as chairman of the Lafayette District United Givers Fund drive.

The plaque was presented to him by George Irvin, general superintendent, during a safety meeting.

Meche reportedly led employee drives in 1981 and 1982 which resulted in 100 percent participation each year.

## Employees play Santa Claus

Gulf States employees in Orange helped brighten a bleak Christmas for several needy families as a way of showing that they "care for our fellow man," according to Van Kitchens, service foreman.

When they discovered that the local Salvation Army office could not fill all of the requests for Christmas help, the Orange GSU office came to the rescue. They collected groceries, toys and cash; some generously donated safety points. Coffee shop proceeds were used to buy turkeys for Christmas meals. Self-styled energy gift certificates were created when some of the cash donations were used toward the needy families' electric bills.

Doris Wallace, *Plain Talks* correspondent, said that although no thanks was expected for their good deeds, every family helped by the GSU employees wrote to express their appreciation. One especially touching note thanked the employees for showing "complete love" by giving without being asked.



## Mother-to-be given shower

A baby shower was given to Sheryl Brocato on Jan. 26 in Edison Plaza. Sheryl, who is expecting her first child in mid-February, is an environmental analyst in Power Plant Engineering and Design in Beaumont.

Co-workers, uncertain of an appropriate gift for the expectant mother, surprised Sheryl with their unusual generosity, as her expression in the photograph shows.



## Family welcomes new baby



B. C. Cannon, a Gulf States retiree, received a very special gift on Nov. 16, 1982 — his 73rd birthday — a new grandson. Brady Wayne Cannon was born at 5:25 p.m. to Michael and Lee Cannon. Brady Wayne weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces and measured 21¼ inches. His father, Lee, is a first class electrician at Nelson Station and has been with Gulf States since September 1977.



## Duhon assumes alderman's post

Burt Duhon, district accounting supervisor in Lafayette, was sworn in as an alderman for the town of Broussard on Jan. 20 in the Lafayette Parish Courthouse.

Duhon (at left in photograph) was sworn in by parish Clerk of Court Dan Guillote.



## Tiny baby joins Weston family

When Ashley T. Weston decided to join her family about 12 weeks earlier than expected last Oct. 27, the tiny infant weighed in at 2 pounds, 5½ ounces, reports R. J. Bordelon of the Gas Department.

The little girl is the second child born to William and Shirley Weston, who have a 3½-year-old daughter, April. Mrs. Weston is a departmental clerk in the Gas Department, Baton Rouge.

Noting that Ashley's due date was around Feb. 4, 1983, Bordelon said the infant nevertheless had almost doubled her weight by the time she left the intensive care unit at Woman's Hospital after 52 days. The little girl came home just one week before Christmas weighing 4 pounds, 6½ ounces. Mrs. Weston termed the arrival at home "the greatest Christmas present we had ever received."

## Balloons mark son's birth

James E. "Jim" Hurley, superintendent of Nelson Coal, received a balloon bouquet at work in commemoration of the Jan. 18 birth of his son, Christopher James.

The bouquet was sent by Hurley's wife, Debbie, who selected several balloons inscribed with "New Kid in Town" and a single balloon inscribed with "I Love You." Little Christopher weighed in at 6 pounds, 2 ounces.

Hurley is pictured with the clown who delivered the bouquet.



## Shower honors Marilyn McGraw

A baby shower honoring Marilyn McGraw, secretary in Public Affairs, was held Jan. 18 in a private dining room in the Edison Plaza cafeteria.

Mrs. McGraw, who is expecting her first child around Feb. 15, is shown opening one of the gifts.

Hostesses for the noon event were Cleo Tolley, Sharon Englade, Susan Gilley and Lori Luquette.





## Narcisse wins football award



Donald Narcisse, a senior at Port Arthur's Lincoln High School, was recently awarded the U.G. Gipson Memorial Outstanding Player Award. The young man is the son of Paul Narcisse, utility worker II in Port Arthur and a 22-year veteran of Gulf States.

Young Narcisse reportedly has had several offers to play college football next year, but has not yet decided which school to attend, says Barbara Broussard, *Plain Talks* correspondent.

## Clerk has new baby boy

Doris J. Brown, departmental clerk in System Production of Beaumont, gave birth to a son on Dec. 29, 1982. Hassan Ali weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 inches at birth.

Doris has been a Gulf States employee since November 1981.



## Duval reports family ties

Two newcomers have joined families with long-standing traditions of applying for work at GSU.

Corey Baker, 8 months old in January, and Brian Gregory Goodwin, 3 months old in January, are the grandsons of Bonnie B. Duval, a departmental clerk at Sabine Station. The two youngsters are also the great-grandchildren of Walter Burris, a retired control operations foreman from Sabine Station and Bonnie's father, Mrs. Duval reports. Burris is pictured holding Corey (left) and Brian.

Corey's mom is Bonnie's daughter, Tammy, and Brian's mom is Bonnie's daughter, Terri. In addition, Brian's father, Donald Gregory Goodwin, is a mechanic helper at Nelson Coal, and his uncle, Gerald Goodwin, is a repairman-1st class at Sabine.

## Kemp makes dean's list

Jaynen Kemp, daughter of a Port Arthur employee, made the dean's list at Lamar University for the fall semester.

The Lamar University freshman made the list with her good grades in the aerospace engineering curriculum, according to her father, Raymond Kemp, meter and service supervisor.

## Gill transfers to new job



Mike Gill, former accountant at Willow Glen, transferred to corporate planning in Beaumont in mid-January as an associate planning analyst.

Co-workers and other well-wishers presented a cake and a desk pen set to Gill to wish him good luck in his new job, according to *Plain Talks* correspondent Lydia Mitchell. Gill, with GSU since January 1981, received his bachelor of science in finance from Mississippi State University.

## GSUers assist Woodville family

Gulf States employees rallied to the assistance of a Woodville employee whose home burned the week before Christmas, reports Danita Harper, a customer contact clerk in Woodville.

Daniel Mitchell, a lineman-1st class in Woodville, found himself, his wife Etter, and seven of their eight children homeless just days before Christmas. His Woodville co-workers spearheaded an assistance campaign which netted cash, clothes and toy contributions from throughout GSU.

The family has since settled into a mobile home at the site of their previous home. According to Mrs. Harper, both Mitchell and Woodville employees who assisted with the campaign wish to say "thanks" to all GSUers.



## Supper honors two retirees



*Elvie A. Cowart (right) receives his plaque from Richard L. East, first class serviceman.*

Two Baton Rouge Division employees with a combined total of 70 years of service at Gulf States were guests of honor at a retirement supper held at the Louisiana Station assembly hall.

Robert C. Dawson, a 34-year veteran of Gulf States, was a corrosion technician prior to his retirement on Oct. 1, 1982. Elvie A. Cowart, a 36-year employee, was section head before retiring on Nov. 1, 1982. Both men worked in the Gas Department.

During the chicken and spaghetti supper the men received plaques of appreciation for their many years of service, according to R. J. Bordelon, a service foreman in the Baton Rouge Division.



*Shown accepting his plaque is Robert C. Dawson (right).*

## Sideliners hold January meetings

Sideliners in the Lake Charles, Port Arthur and Beaumont Division met at buffet luncheons in January.

Lake Charles Sideliners Club met Jan. 27 at the Jennings Country Club. Featured speaker was a GSU representative who updated the former employees about some new programs at Gulf States.

Port Arthur Division Sideliners met on Jan. 18 at Wyatt's for lunch and to elect their 1983 officers. New officers elected were: Myrtle Boutte, president; Rosemary Vaught, vice president; Wilma Word, treasurer; Billie Jones, membership and attendance; Ferna DeCuir, corresponding secretary; Ruth Vaughan, recording secretary.

Members also voted to meet the third Tuesday every other month. Their next meeting will be March 21 at Wyatt's Cafeteria.

During their meeting at Moncla's on Jan. 21, Beaumont Division Sideliners were given a talk and slide presentation by JoAnn Barganier of the Southeast Texas Hospice.

At this meeting, Beaumont Division Sideliners elected their officers for 1983. Newly elected president is William T. Buckley; vice president, Jack W. Kirkland; and secretary-treasurer, Joseph Fontana. Committees will be headed by co-chairmen. They are: program committee, L. C. McCullar and Victor P. Gayle; activity committee, Leonora Masterson and Ruth Adams; service and information committee, Ralph Spafford and S. L. Adams. Al Bowen will oversee the Sideliners tours for 1983.

Beaumont Division Sideliners are conducting their 1983 membership drive. All retirees and their spouses, along with surviving spouses of former retirees, are invited to join or renew their membership in Sideliners. Annual dues are \$3 for each retiree (this includes the

spouse's membership also) and \$3 for surviving spouses. More information may be obtained by contacting Joe Fontana, 2865 Louisiana No. 19, Beaumont, Texas, 77702.

## Deaths listed

— Harold L. Berly, 78, of Beaumont died Jan. 19 in St. Elizabeth Hospital, Beaumont.

A 33-year veteran of Gulf States, Berly retired from the company Feb. 1, 1970, as supervisor of land rights.

Survivors include his wife, Eva Lee Derr Berly of Beaumont and one daughter, Carol Berly Thomas

— Henry E. Istre, 80, of Jennings died Jan. 7.

When Istre retired in 1967, he was a T&D helper in the Jennings district.

Survivors include his wife, Anna Savoy Istre of Jennings.

— J. W. Baird Sr., 76, of Woodville died Jan. 5 at his home after an illness. A native of Onalaska, Baird retired from GSU in 1971 as a shift supervisor at Neches Station. He hired on with the company in 1928.

Survivors include his wife, Jimmie Colley Baird of Woodville; one son, James William Baird Jr. of Georgetown; one daughter, Donna Lee Dunlap of Navasota; and one stepson, William R. Darnell of Lafayette, La.



# SERVICE AWARDS

## 30

years



**Bennie L. Bruce**  
Electric T&D  
Beaumont



**Leonard W. Desaw**  
Electric T&D  
Beaumont



**Glenn B. Haines**  
Consumer Services  
Beaumont



**George E. Hayes**  
System Engineering  
Beaumont



**Jean L. Hebert**  
Plant Production  
Nelson Station



**Charles V. Johnson**  
Plant Production  
Louisiana Station



**Vioris J. Olivier**  
Electric T&D  
Lafayette



**Muriel H. Smiley**  
System Engineering  
Beaumont

## 20

years



**Tommy G. Clark**  
Consumer Services  
Port Arthur



**Ron Cunningham**  
Contract Services  
Beaumont



**Allen R. Hebert**  
Electric T&D  
Lafayette

## 10

years



**Phyllis A. Liddle**  
Contract Services  
Beaumont



**Barbara B. Wood**  
System Operations  
Beaumont



# ON THE MOVE

## A

**Anderson, Calvin W.**, Beaumont, to utility worker II, Plant Production.

**Anderson, Wade A.**, Nelson Station, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

## B

**Bagley, Charles J.**, Lake Charles, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Bailey, Mark A.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice-T&D, Substation Department.

**Barber, George**, Baton Rouge, to meterman-2nd class, Gas Department.

**Barideaux, Gloria A.**, Port Arthur, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Barrett, Vickey J.**, Nelson Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Borne, Robert A.**, Baton Rouge, to senior engineering assistant, Gas Department.

**Boyt, James P.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Breaux, Elizabeth W.**, Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Engineering Services.

**Burgin, Mary O.**, Nelson Station, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

## C

**Carroll, Aubrey J.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Champagne, Randy D.**, Port Arthur, to meterman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Clopton, Patrick M.**, Port Arthur, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

## D

**Daniels, Ricky E.**, Port Arthur, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Day, Floyd D.**, Louisiana Station, to turbine engineer, Plant Production.

**Dixon, Edwin G. Jr.**, Nelson Coal, to control operator, Plant Production.

## E

**Evans, Thomas C.**, Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

## F

**Farque, Rickie L.**, Nelson Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Foster, Jack M.**, Baton Rouge, to relayman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

## G

**Gallier, Joseph R.**, Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Power Supply.

**Galloway, James Jr.**, Nelson Coal, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Gentry, Danny H.**, Nelson Coal, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Gonzales, Ricky**, Orange, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Granger, Stephen F.**, Orange, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Griggs, Paul E.**, Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Guttry, Frederick D.**, Baton Rouge, to serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

## H

**Harrison, Oscar L.**, Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Hines, Charlie L.**, Cleveland, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Hitefield, Thomas L.**, Lake Charles, to garage mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Hooks, Chester B. Jr.**, Huntsville, to serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Howard, Debra L.**, Beaumont, to storeroom assistant, Electric T&D.

## J

**James, Clinton D.**, Port Arthur, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Johnson, Ellis Jr.**, Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Jones, Charles D.**, Conroe, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Joubert, Christopher**, Gonzales, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

## K

**Kunkel, Chris A.**, Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

## L

**Lethermon, Michael W.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Lewis, Charles E.**, Port Allen, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**LeBlanc, Tommy C.**, Port Arthur, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Little, Harold E. Jr.**, Conroe, to communications serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Louviere, Robert G.**, Beaumont, to switchboard operator, Plant Production.

**Lupo, Michael J.**, Willow Glen, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

## M

**Maggio, Gayenel H.**, Zachary, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Marchesseault, Jesse L. Jr.**, Denham Springs, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Martin, Ronald E.**, Port Arthur, to serviceman-4th class, Electric T&D.

## N

**Noble, Diane B.**, Louisiana Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

## O

**Olinger, Wayne J.**, Baton Rouge, to communications serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Owens, Keith A.**, Nelson Coal, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

## P

**Paris, Curtis D.**, Nelson Coal, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Parms, Clarence A.**, Willow Glen, to test technician-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Powell, Gary D.**, Conroe, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

## R

**Rains, Norman L. Jr.**, Port Arthur, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Ray, Thomas J.**, Beaumont, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Renfrow, Guy L.**, Nelson Coal, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Rodgers, Earnest W.**, Nelson Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Rodgers, Fred R.**, Beaumont, to turbine engineer, Plant Production.

**Rose, Joseph Jr.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Ross, Walter J.**, Conroe, to senior engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

## S

**Shaw, Odis E.**, Beaumont, to senior draftsman, Engineering Design.

**Sobczak, Gary J.**, Beaumont, to supervisor-construction work in progress, Accounting Services.

**Southard, Jay R.**, Lafayette, to apprentice-Electric T&D.

**Spurlock, Bryant C.**, Beaumont, to apprentice-Electric T&D.

**Stahl, David R.**, Nelson Coal, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Steele, Norma S.**, Conroe, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

## T

**Thibodeaux, Byron K.**, River Bend Site, to senior systems engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Thibodeaux, Horace**, Nelson Coal, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Thibodeaux, Phillip C.**, Port Allen, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Thomas, Brian E.**, Port Arthur, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Thompson, George E. Jr.**, Silsbee, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Thornhill, William D.**, Willow Glen, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Tizeno, Edmond Jr.**, Jennings, to meter reader, Division Accounting.

**Trahan, Clinton P.**, Lake Charles, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

## V

**Vance, Robert D.**, Port Arthur, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

## W

**Walhood, Ben P. Jr.**, Port Arthur, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Ward, Prentice W.**, Beaumont, to principal accountant, Accounting Services.

**Williams, Karl D.**, Nelson Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Williams, Mitchell L. III**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice-Electric T&D.

**Wilson, Sandra K.**, Beaumont, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Winckler, Steven L.**, Port Arthur, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Woodrome, Nancy T.**, Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Corporate Services.

**Woods, Morris J.**, Lake Charles, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Worthy, Gene B.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

## Y

**Yates, James E.**, Beaumont, to communications serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Young, Grayson S.**, River Bend Site, to NSSS plant engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

## Z

**Zalfen, David J.**, Louisiana Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.



## Improved outlook predicted for '83

Public utilities should benefit from a growing economy in 1983, according to a forecast by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce published in the January 1983 issue of *Nation's Business*.

According to the magazine, despite the severity of the 1981-82 recession, public utilities — electric, gas, water and sanitation — produced 0.3 percent more in 1982 than in the previous year. In 1983, the article continued, this industry's output is expected to rise another 1.4 percent, as business and household formation pick up. As a group, utilities are forecast to spend \$20.6 billion (after inflation) for plant and equipment in 1983, \$810 million less than in 1982.

## Methanol mix believed good

A touch of methanol in utility boilers might help alleviate California's famous air pollution — or so the California Energy Commission thinks.

A news item in the Jan. 4 edition of *The Energy Daily* reveals that the state's energy commission recently awarded a \$300,000 contract to a local company to

conduct a full-scale test of the theory. KVB Inc. of Irvine will work with Southern California Edison to see how efficient and cost-effective it is to burn methanol along with residual fuel oil in one of the utility's boilers.

The energy commission reportedly believes that certain emissions could be reduced by as much as 40 percent by placing a 20 percent methanol content in the fuel mix, *The Energy Daily* reported.

## Politicos offer slurry legislation

In late January, three congressmen — Morris K. Udall of Arizona, Dan Marriott of Utah and John Breaux of Louisiana — introduced legislation to provide federal eminent domain rights for coal slurry pipelines. U.S. Sen. J. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana joined them in introducing the companion Senate bill, reported the Alliance for Coal and Competitive Transportation (ACCT).

A broad spectrum of bi-partisan support seemed evident from the co-sponsors endorsing both bills, an ACCT news release noted.

Among industry figures applauding the proposed legislation was Carl E. Bagge, president of the National Coal Association and ACCT chairman. ACCT is a broad-based coalition of consumer, labor, coal, utility and other industry groups supporting the development of coal slurry pipelines.

Fred Webber, executive vice president of the Edison Electric Institute and vice chairman of ACCT, was quoted as saying, "Our electric utility customers cannot continue to be subjected to the rate hikes imposed by the

railroad industry on the price of delivered coal. Railroads, in many instances, now operate as a monopoly in a deregulated environment."

Webber continued, "In light of the fact that 85 percent of the coal transported by rail is captive, coal pipelines offer an important competitive alternative."

Consumers would also benefit by coal slurry development, suggested Alex Radin, vice president of the Consumer Federation of America and executive director of the American Public Power Association. "The availability of competition in the form of coal slurry pipelines could save consumers billions of dollars," he said.

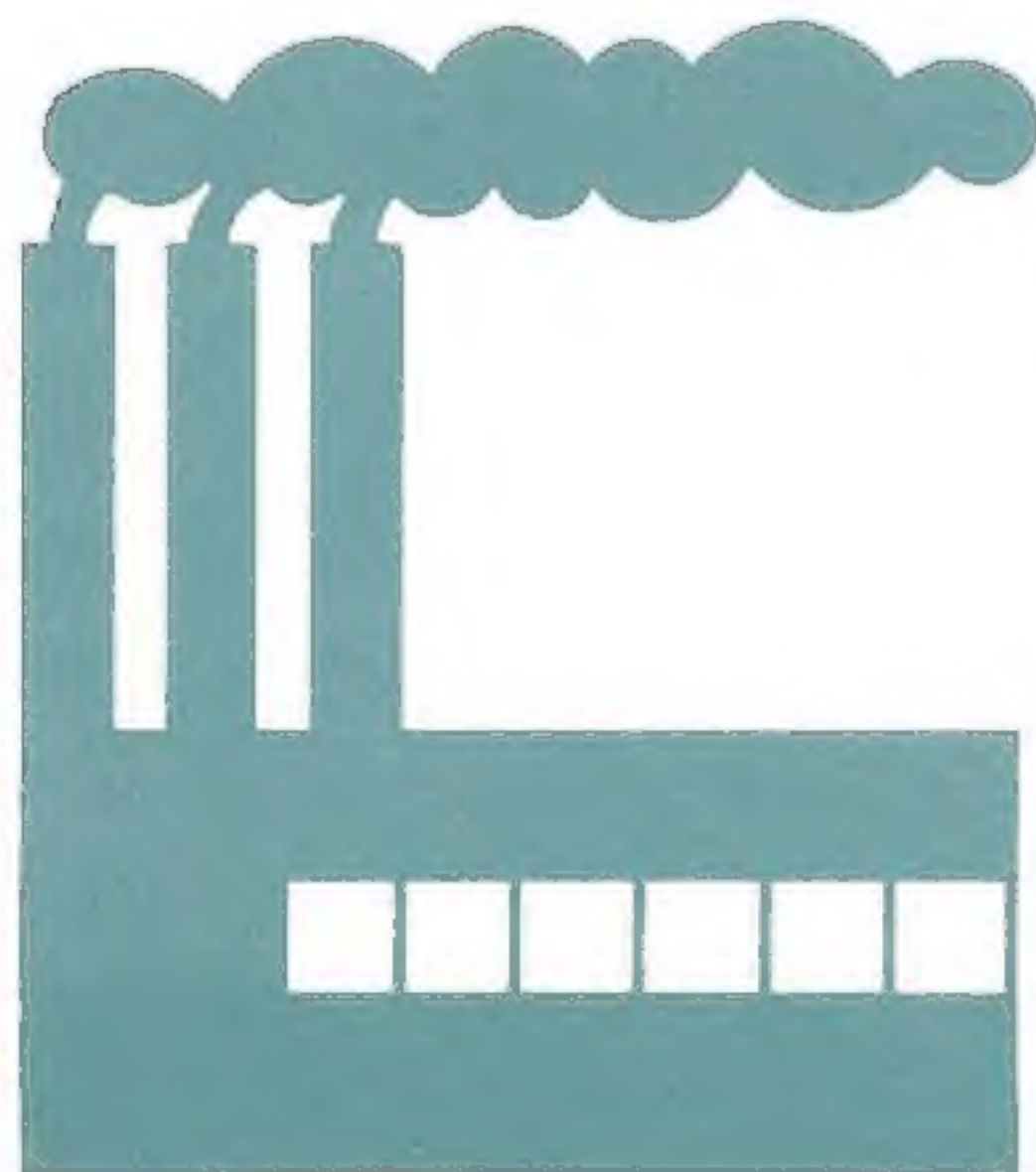
## Utility sells partial interest

Rates may be lower in 1983 for customers of Central Louisiana Electric Co., according to an article in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Sale of 20 percent interest in a coal-fired generating plant could reduce rates charged to Central Louisiana Electric Co. customers by about 5 percent in 1983, the *Journal* story noted. The utility decided to sell part of its share because projected power needs did not justify the company's original 50 percent interest in the 530,000-kilowatt plant. CLECO originally owned 50 percent of the unit, but now will own 30 percent.

In addition to reduced rates to its customers, proceeds made from the sale will allow the utility to retire part of the company's debt.

According to the *Journal* story, a group of Louisiana municipalities paid \$74.4 million for their 20 percent interest in the Rodemacher Unit 2 plant.





## Project CARE: Help for the Elderly

GSU customers and employees can contribute to Project CARE — Community Assistance Relating to Energy — to help the elderly cope with energy-related emergencies. Board Chairman Paul Murrill describes the program as an opportunity “for people to show sensitivity to the needs of other people.”

The GSU board of directors voted Jan. 6 to contribute \$100,000 in shareholder funds to kick off Project CARE. GSU customers may volunteer to add \$1 to their monthly utility bills and employees may designate a specific amount to be deducted from their paychecks to add to the fund. If employees donate more than \$100,000, the board has vowed to match the amount with additional shareholder funds.

Beginning March 1 in the Louisiana service area and March 14 in the Texas service area, specially-designated agencies will begin accepting applications from persons 62 or older who are facing financial hardships which make it difficult for them to pay heating or cooling bills. The program will cover the bills regardless of whether the source is electricity, gas, butane or propane. Payment will be in the form of checks or vouchers payable to the suppliers. In some cases, the fund may help cover minor weatherization or repairs to heating or cooling equipment.

In Louisiana, two different agencies will handle the program, with the Urban Ministers Coalition, an inter-denominational group, managing Project CARE in East Baton Rouge Parish and the Council on Aging handling it in the remaining parishes. The American Red Cross will handle the program in Texas.

During the GSU management conference in late January, Vita Ostrander, president-elect of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), informed the gathering, “Over the last six years, the average older person spent 30 percent of his budget on fuel and utilities — compared to the average younger consumer’s expenditure of 8 percent. While rising energy prices have affected the budgets of all older Americans, the impact on those living on low incomes has been devastating. They are the ones with the least ability to change their consumption patterns to accommodate higher energy prices, because they spend most of their income on basic necessities.”

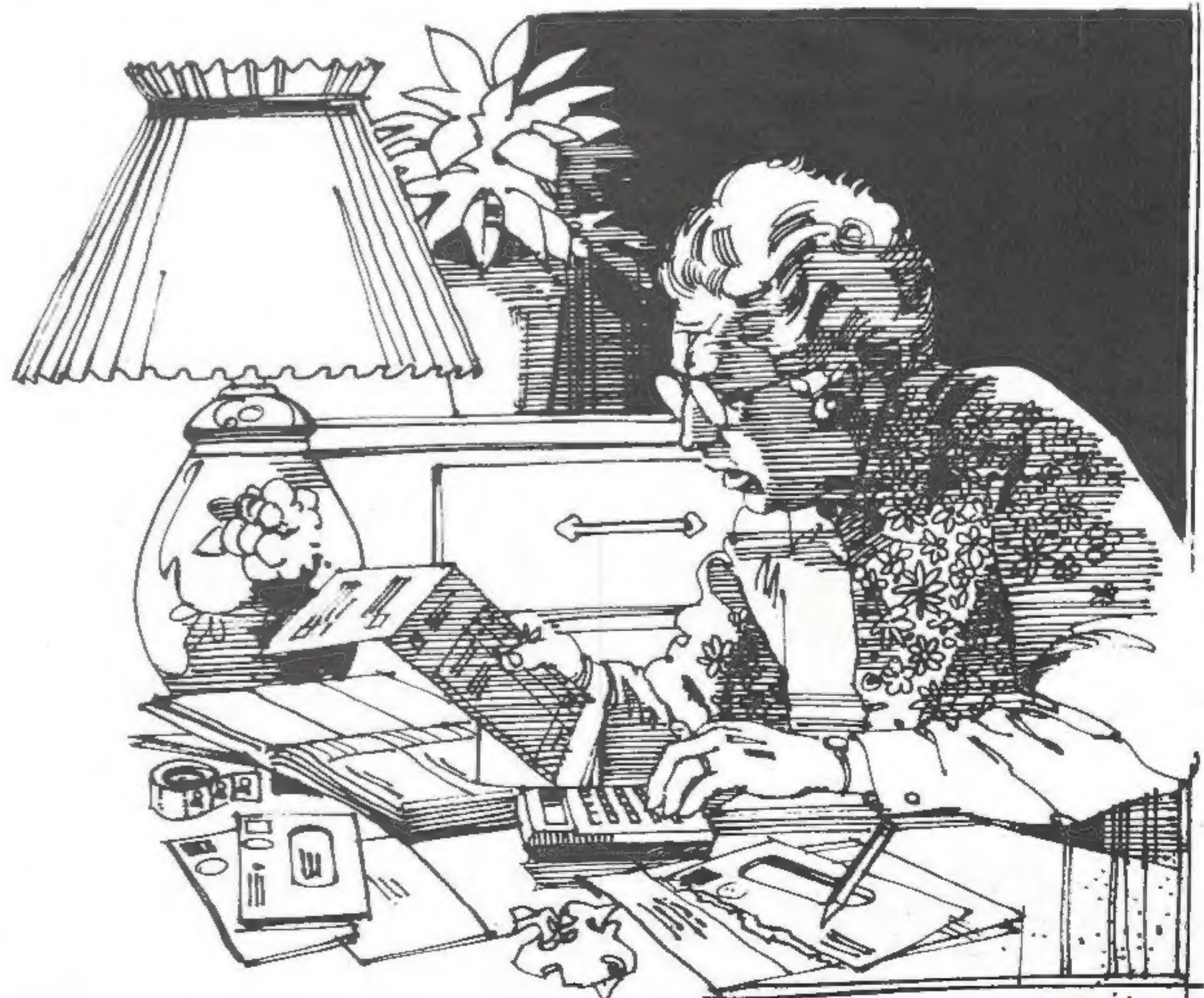
To compound the problem, continued the AARP speaker, “Today, almost 26 percent of all older Americans — one out of every four — are considered poor or near poor.”

Before the company decided to participate in the program,

elected officials from the service area and representatives of social service agencies had been urging the company to consider establishing some assistance program for the elderly.

One obstacle to offering such a program was company reluctance to venture into any program which might be viewed as “welfare.” As a Jan. 31 editorial in the *Beaumont Enterprise* pointed out, however, Project CARE avoids that designation because of its close association with recognized social service agencies. In addition, recipients will be able to receive assistance no more than twice a year.

GSU’s role will be limited to promoting the program and collecting the money. Specially-appointed consumer monitoring panels in each state recently began setting guidelines for the program and will conduct audits to make sure that the funds are being used properly.





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# Q. What's magma power?

# A.

It's energy contained in the earth's molten core — and we're learning how to tap it. Sandia National Laboratories scientists have used heat exchangers to convert the 1000° C magma under Hawaii's Kilauea Iki Lava Lake into electricity. Geologists think there's enough thermal energy in large pools of molten rock within six miles of the surface of the continental U.S. to provide up to 8,000 times as much energy as the nation consumes in a year. But don't give up on coal or nuclear just yet. It could take 20 years to get a magma demonstration plant going.

